

SOCIAL ACTION

News-Letter

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Indianapolis, Indiana

October, 1953

DELEGATES NAMED TO STUDY CONFERENCE

The president of the International Convention has named the Disciples of Christ representatives to the 14th National Study Conference on Churches and World Order to be held at Hotel Cleveland, Cleveland, Ohio, October 27-30, under the auspices of the Department of International Justice and Goodwill of the National Council of Churches. In accordance with previous practice the Department of Social Welfare, which has responsibility for peace education among the churches of the Disciples of Christ was asked to make nominations.

The conference has been called to study certain major foreign policy issues facing the United States today and to review the position and strategy of the churches on these issues in the light of the Christian faith. It is expected that 850 persons will be in attendance, representing all the commissions holding membership in the National Council.

John B. Boyd, Greencastle, Indiana
Floyd Faust, Columbus, Ohio
Charles Johnson, Chicago, Illinois
Mory Ross, New York City, N. Y.
Whitehouse, Cincinnati, Ohio
James D. Wyker, Columbia, Missouri

Cleveland Ohio:
Earl A. May
Russell Putnam

Indianapolis, Indiana:
Bo W. Blackburn
Genevieve Brown
George Walker Buckner
James M. Cook
James A. Crain
Alice Langford
Roger Rossman
Mark Rutherford
Earlie L. Smith
George Oliver Taylor
Robert Tobias
Barton Hunter
Malcolm F. West
Louis, Missouri:
D. Cartwright
Kenn McRae
Lee Neal

The three asterick marked names will go as consultants, due to the fact that they are members of the sponsoring department of the National Council of Churches named above. Mrs. H. Marx, of Muncie, Indiana has been appointed a delegate to represent the Department of United Church Women.

J.A.C.

CHURCHMAN — SCHOLAR — HUMANITARIAN

On the 20th of August of this year the National Christian Missionary Convention presented a special citation for distinguished services to Dr. James Crain, Executive Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare.

This tribute which was beautifully lettered on parchment read as follows:

"This Citation is presented to James A. Crain, Churchman, Scholar, Humanitarian. In recognition of over a quarter of a century of service to the humble and disinherited of mankind without reference to creed, color, or national origin. In this service he has brought an intelligence and courage through which the cries of man have been made poignant. In his personal as well as professional life he has demonstrated a compassion which has found expression in service to individuals who thereby have been assisted in their struggle for the better life. This citation comes with appreciation of this service, and with confidence of many more years of courageous living on the frontiers of social justice and action. Presented by The National Christian Missionary Convention, this 20th day of August, 1953. (signed) Emmett J. Dickson, Executive Secretary; L. L. Dickerson, President."

Coming, as it did, from the most representative group of our Negro Disciple brethren, it is especially significant. Here was a group of men and women who have known "Jim" Crain through the years, who have worked with him and shared with him the heats of the battle for social justice, expressing in eloquent fashion their appreciation and their sense of fellowship.

Many of the rest of us would wish to attach our names to the citation and to say "amen" to its sentiments. Our congratulations then are extended both to the recipient of the honor and the group which so showed such thoughtfulness in presenting it.

B.H.

LEWIS H. DEER, JR., JOINS STAFF

The board of trustees of the United Christian Missionary Society on November 16 announced the election of Lewis H. Deer, Jr., pastor of the Pulaski Heights Christian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas as a member of the staff of the department of social welfare. He will take over the portfolio of national director of social education, freeing Barton Hunter to give assistance to the executive secretary and to the work of world order.

Mr. Deer is a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., having received his elementary and secondary education in the schools of that city. He received his B. A. degree from Bethany College and the B. D. degree from the University of Chicago Divinity School. He has been pastor of the Pulaski Heights Church for five years, prior to which time he was pastor in Granite City, Illinois. Mrs. Deer is the former Ruth Gathman of Arrowsmith, Illinois. They have two children, Hutchinson, age 5 1/2, and Virginia Ann, age 4. The family will move to Indianapolis about October 1.

J.A.C.

"WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS —"

True of the individual, yes; if anything even more true of the nation are the words, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

What of the nation's heart, then, as it is reflected in financial commitments of our national administration.

First of all it is a frightened heart. Of the total of 54 1/2 billions of dollars appropriated by our 83rd Congress, 70% or 38 1/3 billions was appropriated for the Defense Department or for military aid to our allies (34.3 billion to the Defense Department and 4. + billions to military aid to allies). Place these figures along side of the amount we allocated for the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. For these three interests, which one might think would be major concerns of our government, we are setting aside 1.7 billions. In short we are prepared, on a national basis, to spend 22 times as much for military defense as we are for health, education and public welfare. This of course does not take into account 63 billions in unspent funds which our military departments have left over from previous appropriations. In other words with 63 billions already in the hands of our military leaders our last Congress proceeded to load

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TRUCE NEGOTIATIONS

Now that the Korean truce has been signed, prisoners exchanged, shaky peace negotiations will soon start, and some of the behind-the-scenes maneuvers begin to fall into an understandable pattern. Most of the basic facts have been published in the daily press, but the story behind the headlines has not been made public and even now must be deduced from what is known, plus what can be understood from words dropped here and there. The story as pieced together and reported by sources in Washington indicates that we narrowly averted, if not an all-out war, at the very least a greatly intensified Asiatic military effort that would have involved several million American soldiers.

The story indicates that a top level decision was made in the early part of the Eisenhower administration to end the stalemate by landings behind the Red lines, a drive to push the Reds back toward the Yalu, and a blockade of the coast of China. This, it is said, was communicated to some of our European allies, whose alarm was manifested in a number of statements made by responsible European statesmen about that time, designed to put the brakes on U. S. plans. It is assumed that the intention of the U. S. was revealed to Moscow, probably by neutrals. Moscow then is believed to have got in touch with Red China and North Korea officials urging a truce. However, plans for a greatly increased military effort by the U. S. in Korea are said to have been on the boards as late as early July. It is believed that Moscow got wind of this and urged North Korea to speed up negotiations. In the meantime two divisions of U. S. troops were moved to Korea from Japan and another was sent from the U. S. to Japan.

Syngman Rhee threatens unification of Korea by force, if necessary. We are committed to some sort of action in support of Rhee if the peace talks go beyond 90 days. What we are committed to is not altogether clear. One thing that seems clear is that all-out war may result if peace talks fail.

J.A.C.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

McMichael Denies Red Ties: Baptist Manning Johnson, an ex-communist, stood before Methodist Jack McMichael and said softly, "are you sure you don't remember me?"

The 36-year old Methodist clergyman, former head of the Methodist Social Action Federation, looked at Johnson and declared, "I don't remember you either by name or appearance." The dramatic confrontation in the hearing room of the House Un-American Activities Committee was the climax to two days of investigation into alleged Red affiliations of McMichael as the result of a positive statement by Johnson that he knew McMichael as a member of the Young Communist League in the 1930's.

Throughout the two days of questioning McMichael had repeatedly demanded that his accuser be cited for perjury. The Methodist minister declared that he had been a student at Emory College in Atlanta, Georgia, during the years when he was supposed to have been serving in the New York City apparatus of the Communist Party. Who committed perjury? The Committee members had obviously made up their minds about this even before McMichael testified. They believed Johnson. But the transcript of the hearings is now in the hands of the Department of Justice for consideration.

Throughout the two days of hearings the Committee's attitude was markedly different from the deference shown Methodist Bishop G. Bromly Oxnam a few weeks earlier. Bishop Oxnam was treated with care. He was given an opportunity to answer questions in some detail and elaborate upon the various observations of the Committee members. For McMichael no such consideration was shown. When he tried to go beyond a "yes" or "no" answer to questions his answers were stricken from the record. As a result McMichael was forced to make what the Committee called "outbursts" to get his point of view on the record. Only Rep. Clyde Doyle (D., Calif.) insisted on occasions that the witness be permitted to make a lengthy answer to accusations by the Committee. This was the setting in which the perjury allegations evolved. The Committee plans further hearings of the Methodist minister sometime this fall or winter.

Point IV: Foreign Operations Administrator Harold Stassen has announced plans to stop the Government's technical assistance program. Twenty religious, civic and farm leaders to whom the proposal was presented immediately objected. They asked Mr. Stassen to continue the Point IV program and the FOA Chief

agreed to reconsider. But there is every indication that the Administration will go ahead with plans to de-emphasize and eventually eliminate the popular program initiated by President Truman.

Private Agencies: Mr. Stassen said that the GOP wants private groups to take over most of the technical assistance burden. A similar suggestion was made in May, 1953, by Secretary of State Dulles. The Secretary thought that an organization such as the Rockefeller Foundation was better suited than the Government to continue the war "against poverty, hunger, disease and injustice". The twenty-man group which met with Mr. Stassen said the Government support of private programs would be most welcome. They pointed out, however, that private agencies cannot do the job alone. Mr. Stassen was urged to continue the Government's own program. It appeared unlikely that this would happen unless there was a strong feeling expressed for the continuation of Point IV.

Package Deal: The religious, civic and farm leaders also warned Mr. Stassen about tying technical assistance to military aid. Under the reorganized foreign aid set-up both types of assistance are now administered by FOA. The advisory group felt that the temptation would be greater to place more emphasis on larger and more glamorous programs with military and political overtones.

Personnel: Before Mr. Stassen made his announcement there were other indications that the days of Point IV were numbered. Technical personnel and top administrators, hired on a non-partisan basis, were the first to be fired as a result of Congressional budget cuts. Personnel hired to administer the military aid program fared better, although there also were some cuts in this operation.

Future: If the scheduled slow-death treatment for Point IV is continued the Administration will: (1) continue the program through June 1954 as required by Congress but with increasing military and political overtones; (2) recommend against a new technical assistance program after that date except where there are definite political objectives; (3) urge private agencies to expand their programs backed by whatever non-financial help the Government can give.

Labor: The departure of Secretary of Labor Martin Durkin from the cabinet was the result of a two-week squeeze. The leader of the plumbers union announced that he was resigning because White House aides failed to honor earlier pledges to amend the

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ON SOCIAL FRONTIERS

Tidelands Oil Aftermath. The usual reliable Wells newsletter, "Between the Lines", reports that friends of President Eisenhower privately feel he has soured on the tidelands oil; that he accepted it as a necessary compromise to secure the big California and Texas electoral votes; that when the Tidelands Bill was passed he received more mail asking to veto it than on any other substance since his inauguration. Some Senators are reported as saying that their vote was 200 to 1 against the bill. Senator Taft is said to have been bombarded with petitions from Ohio-

Public Lands, Public Power, Synthetic Rubber Next. Predictions are made that the next drive in Congress will be to turn over to private interests the 465,000,000 acres of public lands and the 160,000,000 acres of national forests, together with 52,000,000 kilowatt hours per year of electrical power; then the federally-owned synthetic rubber plants at the proper time. Already Secretary of the Interior McKay has approved the giving of a valuable dam site in the Pacific Northwest to a private utility. Unless the people are warned of what is afoot, the heroic struggles of Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot to save the national resources for the benefit of the people may prove to have been in vain.

Albania Next? Worldover Press says Italian sources have received reports that the secret submarine installations built by the Russians at Lona, Albania and on the island of Sano, designed as a Communist Gibraltar on the Mediterranean, are being dismantled. The reason: Tito controls the rail communications between Russia and her satellites and the Albanian frontier. These reports also indicate that the 6,000 Russian technicians in Albania have been withdrawn and that Russia has advised the Albanian government that it could expect no Soviet support in case of trouble with its neighbors. Last year the Greek, Turkey and Yugoslav foreign offices joined in a statement that if Albania should break with Moscow it need not fear attacks on its independence.

International Convention, Take Note. Religious News Service reported August 21 that Miami, Florida city officials notified the National Baptist Convention, Inc., the largest Negro Baptist body in the U. S., that housing of the convention's estimated 15,000 delegates was a convention responsibility for which city agencies could accept no responsibility. The city manager indicated the convention bureau would cooperate in making arrangements for meetings—no responsibility for housing.

J.A.C.

NATIONAL CONVENTION SETS UP SOCIAL ACTION GROUP

The National Christian Missionary Convention voted on August 20 to set up a commission on social action as one of the permanent agencies of the convention, under the chairmanship of R. L. Jordan, pastor of the United Christian Church of Detroit, Michigan. For a number of years the convention has featured seminars on social issues in the annual convention gathering. The National Christian Missionary Convention is the fellowship gathering of the Negro Disciples of Christ in the United States and holds membership in the International Convention of Disciples of Christ.

J.A.C.

JIMMY GRIBBLE RETURNS FROM GREECE

Jimmy (Stokely B.) Gribble returned to the United States on the S. S. *Georgia* after 27 months as a fraternal worker under the World Council under support of Week of Compassion Funds. He is visiting his mother, Mrs. Evylin Gribble, national *World Call* secretary, in Indianapolis.

Jimmy went out in the spring of 1951 as a member of the World Council's Christian Mission to Greek Villages, to serve with a group of American, British and Swedish young Christian leaders to help rehabilitate an area on the Greek-Albanian frontier which had been completely devastated during World War II and in the subsequent civil war with the Greek communist forces. The Mission made its headquarters at Jannina. One of its first projects was to open up a long-clogged drainage tunnel to put 1000 acres of swamp land back into cultivation. Other tasks were to help get farm homes rebuilt, new orchards set out, pruning and grafting trees, introduction of better seeds and getting a new start of farm animals.

In an interview at Missions Building Jimmy said that judged by American standards of know-how and achievement progress improvement in Greece is slow and sometimes discouraging. On the other hand, judged in the light of the basic poverty of Greece, the immensity of the devastation of World War II and the subsequent civil war, a great deal has been accomplished. The Mission has the support of the Greek Orthodox Church, whose Archbishop has appointed a representative to counsel with it.

Jimmy will return to Greece on the S. S. *Queen Mary*, October 26. In his second period of service he will be associated with the Refugee Division of the World Council, working among refugees. In February, 1954, Parker Rowe, of Sikeston, Missouri, (now completing work for a Master's degree in agricultural extension) will sail to take Jimmy's place as a member of the Christian Mission to Greek Villages.

J.A.C.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY — SOME FACTS

A small leaflet published recently by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare reveals "Some Facts About Juvenile Delinquency" that should stir every Christian citizen to action in his community.

These facts tell how many boys and girls in America—an estimated 350,000 of them in 1951—are getting in trouble with the law each year. Data from juvenile courts that report to the Children's Bureau give a reliable indication of what is happening and show that the number of delinquents is increasing.

The Bureau of the Census predicts that we shall have 42% more boys and girls in the 10-17 age group in 1960 than we had in 1951. The babies born during and after the war are growing up.

During the first six months of 1952 more serious crimes were committed by boys and girls 18 years old than by persons of any other age. In a study of 500 delinquent boys the fact was brought out that the age at which the largest number appeared in court was between 11 and 13. Nine-tenths of these same children were having marked difficulty adjusting to normal social life before they were 11 years old. Almost a half of the groups were giving noticeable signs of becoming delinquent at the age of eight or younger. Delinquency begins early! These facts also show that the agencies in the local communities that carry the major responsibility for assisting young people who need help because of their delinquent behavior are already having a difficult time with their present caseloads. They are generally understaffed and many of their present staff lack proper training.

These are facts—plus many others stated in the leaflet—that call for action. They make it clear that State and local action are needed to meet this situation. Juvenile delinquency is largely a local problem and it must be dealt with there.

Every citizen can help bring about this needed action to improve services for delinquent children. One of the first things that can be done is to find out the facts right at home. How many boys and girls are picked up each year by the police for delinquent behavior? What happens to them? What are the end results? Then, having the facts, a citizen must find ways to put them to work.

At the present time, only about one out of six communities have a sufficient number of juvenile police officers. It has been estimated that about five percent of a community's total police force should be assigned for work with children. Police depart-

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"WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS —."

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them down with another 34.3 billions giving them a total of 97 or 98 billions to spend as they will. Why? The answer seems obvious. Our nation has a frightened heart.

Second our nation has a selfish and self centered heart. At least if one may judge by the acts of our recently adjourned 83rd Congress, this is true. While it was setting aside 38 billions for military purposes it also set aside some money for foreign aid programs of various sorts—Point Four, Economic Aid to certain of the Arab states, Technical Assistance through the U. N., United Nations Korean Reconstruction Agency, UNICEF, Movement of Migrants, etc. How Much? Approximately 402 million dollars. What does that mean on a comparative basis? It means that for every \$38 we spent on our own defense we spent 40c on relief, rehabilitation and assistance for the needy and underprivileged peoples of the world. Why? Again the answer seems obvious. After a period of unparalleled generosity our nation seems to have developed a selfish and self-centered heart.

Or,—there is another possibility. Perhaps our nation merely has an indifferent heart. Perhaps, the recently adjourned Congress did not represent it at all. Perhaps we who make up the nation would not have favored the appropriations of our Congress if we had been aware of them. Perhaps we do not favor the distribution of our national budget as it is now set. Perhaps we are not as fearful of the possibility of aggression as our government believes. Perhaps we believe more in attempting to serve the needs of the people of the world than do our representatives in Congress. If so then indeed we have an indifferent heart for few if any of our congressmen have any notion of such feelings.

"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." If indeed, as we have said so often, the church is the conscience of society, then it is high time that the conscience was speaking to the heart of society. It is high time that we as a church were beginning to say to our Congress, "We do not believe in cutting the appropriations of our government to such agencies as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund. We do not believe in appropriating 22 times as much for military defense as we do for all relief and rehabilitation and assistance programs. We are in favor of a balanced budget, yes. But we think the place to balance the budget is at the point where it is over balanced—in the area of military expenditure."

B.H.

STATE COMMISSION CHAIRMEN TO MEET

A conference of state chairmen of social education and action has been called to meet at Spring Mill Inn, Spring Mill State Park, Mitchell, Indiana, October 19, 20 and 21. Mitchell, Indiana is on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad midway between St. Louis and Cincinnati.

The conference will begin on Monday evening, October 19 with a preview of some of the critical social issues that challenge Christians today and demand Christian action by the churches. On Tuesday, October 20 attention will be given to programs of action which can be sponsored by state commissions and committees, together with the Outreach Emphasis for 1954-1955 on minority group relationships. Further discussions involving program, materials and methods will be held on Wednesday forenoon, closing with luncheon, permitting those in attendance to leave on afternoon and evening trains. Already several state organizations have agreed to send their state chairmen to this meeting.

J.A.C.

CHURCHMAN'S WASHINGTON SEMINAR

The dates of February 23-26, 1954, have now been set for the holding of the Churchman's Washington Seminar. Since the seminar is interdenominational in character and since total attendance is limited to 300 people, the Disciples are quite fortunate in their quota of 45 delegates. These delegates are registered through the Department of Social Welfare and in fairness to all those who might wish to attend it it has been decided to accept registrations on the basis of the order in which they are received.

The tentative program for the Washington Seminar includes addresses by outstanding senators and congressmen, newspaper correspondents, and leaders in religious and political thought; visits to Congress and to committee hearings; and discussion sessions on various political issues.

The registration fee which has not been finally set will be in the neighborhood of \$10 or \$12. Disciples attending will be housed in one hotel so that opportunities for fellowship and smaller discussions will be possible. Hotel reservations will cost from \$4.50 to \$6.50 a night depending upon whether one wishes a single or double room.

Individuals interested are urged to write now to the Department of Social Welfare, 222 So. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Indiana indicating their desire to be considered among the Disciple delegates.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY — SOME FACTS

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ments in cities with a population of 25,000 or more should have a special administrative unit — a juvenile division or the like—to work with children. More than half our cities of this size have no such special administrative unit for handling juvenile delinquents. With facts about the local situation at hand, with an understanding of why services are necessary and what they should be, citizens can go far toward reaching the goal of giving our delinquent children treatment that will really be effective in helping them.

The leaflet, "Some Facts About Juvenile Delinquency" sells for 10 cents and may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

R.E.M.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

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Taft-Hartley Act. This probably was the immediate reason for the resignation. (Later reports from Washington charge that Durkin resigned when President Eisenhower reneged on a promise to support certain revisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, Ed.) If Mr. Durkin could have gone to the AFL convention later this fall with a record of accomplishment his status as a union leader would not have been jeopardized. As it was, however, he felt that the Administration would never meet even reasonable demands of labor. At the same time the former Labor Secretary was under attack in his own union. The acting head of the plumber's union, Peter Schoenman, had issued a vigorous broadside against Eisenhower which also implicated Durkin. Friends of labor report that Schoenman was about to make an "all-out" effort to obtain permanently the position as president of the union. This placed Durkin in a position where he had to make a quick decision since he was under pressure from both sides. Since he saw little possibility of winning his fight for favorable Taft-Hartley Act amendments, Durkin decided to go back to his \$30,000 a year union job before Schoenman's campaign proved successful.

Legislative Mill: In January the Congress will be considering: UMT, extension of the social security act, new tax legislation including a possible sales tax. There is less likelihood of positive action on changes in the immigration legislation and the various civil rights bills. With the support of Senate Minority Leader Lyndon Johnson, a compromise Bricker Resolution may be worked on limiting the treaty making powers of the President.

R.A.F.